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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

16 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

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Summary

Approximately 17,000 UN personnel are now ashore at Inchon. Elements of the US 1st Marine Division have advanced to positions three miles east of Inchon, astride the Seoul road. Along the front in southeast Korea, slight gains have been made by UN forces in attacks from Chindong to Yongchon. UN naval surface and carrier air units supported ground troops in the Inchon-Seoul area while surface units bombarded the east coast in support of ROK marines who landed on the east coast north of Pohang.

Ground

Inchon Area. The attack by the US Tenth Corps is gaining momentum. The city of Inchon has been secured, and ROK forces have been charged with the maintenance of internal security and the establishment of a government for Inchon. Meanwhile elements of the US 1st Marine Division have advanced three miles east of Inchon along the road to Seoul. Approximately 17,000 troops, with tanks and 155mm. howitzers, have been put ashore at Inchon. The local North Korean security forces were quickly overcome. Enemy units attempting to converge on Inchon with additional support have been attacked by UN naval aircraft which destroyed 200 vehicles and an undetermined number of tanks.

Southeast Korea. Along the 90-mile front from Chindong in the south to Yongchon in the north, UN forces took the offensive, and made slight overall gains against enemy resistance varying from light to heavy. UN forces made slight gains in the south sector from Chindong to Hyonpung, reached the east bank of the Nakdong River below Waegwan, and entered Angang in the east. Patrols of the ROK 3rd Division, however, on the extreme east sector, were repulsed by withering small arms fire. ROK marines have landed on the east coast north of Pohang.

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Rear Areas. Air observers reported approximately 50 vehicles and 20 tanks moving south below Antung (near the northeast Korea-Manchurian border). In the Seoul area, UN naval air reconnaissance flights reported several thousand troops dressed in white moving in the direction of Inchon.

Navy

UN naval vessels supported ground troops on both coasts with artillery fire, while carrier air units struck at enemy forces attempting to converge on Inchon. The Command Post of the US Tenth Army Corps has been established afloat off Inchon.

Air Forces

Air forces made strikes against marshalling yards and storage facilities near the southeastern battle zone at Taejon, Andong, and Chonju. Other units assisted in neutralizing enemy resistance against the ROK marine landings on the east coast. Bad weather prevented planned strikes by heavy bombers in the Waegwan area, but other heavy bomber units struck secondary targets at Pyongyang and Wonsan, where marshalling yards and dock areas were hit with excellent results.

II. General Situation

No significant reports have been received during the past 24 hours.

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